AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Previously Presented) A method of authenticating communication between a receiver/decoder and a remote device for providing access to a network, the method comprising:

   authenticating the communication using a unique identifier that identifies the receiver/decoder, wherein the unique identifier is based on a subscription for broadcast services of the receiver/decoder;

   wherein the receiver/decoder indirectly accesses the network to obtain internet services via a gateway interposed between the receiver/decoder and the remote device, and wherein the unique identifier authenticates the communication with the gateway,

   wherein the internet services are associated with a subscription for access to internet services and wherein the broadcast services subscription and the internet services subscription are linked such that the broadcast and internet services subscriptions are managed together, wherein the linked internet and broadcast subscriptions are used to obtain both internet services and broadcast services,

   wherein the network is associated with corresponding network protocols, and data output from the receiver/decoder is converted into data compliant with the network protocols by the gateway interposed between the receiver/decoder and the remote device, and

   wherein the network comprises a plurality of remote devices, wherein said converted data is communicated by the gateway to one of the plurality of remote devices as specified in said data, wherein a communication channel is established between the receiver/decoder and the one of the plurality of remote devices.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the identifier is stored on a removable component of the receiver/decoder.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the identifier is independent of a network login identifier for the receiver/decoder.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the identifier is based on a number unique to a smartcard for use with the receiver/decoder.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the one of the plurality of remote devices is for accessing the internet.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the one of the plurality of remote devices is an internet account management system.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein an internet account for a user is established by the internet account management system using the identifier of the receiver/decoder.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 7, wherein the identifier of the receiver/decoder is compared by the internet account management system with a stored list of identifiers of receiver/decoders which may establish internet accounts.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 7, wherein the one of the plurality of remote devices comprises means for sending data to an internet service provider and wherein said method comprises the steps of providing details of the internet account to the internet service provider to establish a bi-directional data pathway between the receiver/decoder and the internet service provider.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said identifier is accompanied by data identifying a data pathway to be used for communication between the receiver/decoder and one of the plurality of remote devices.

11. – 17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for authenticating communication between a receiver/decoder and a remote device for providing access to a network, the apparatus comprising:

    the receiver/decoder comprising a unique identifier that identifies the receiver/decoder and is based on a subscription to broadcast services of the receiver/decoder; and

a gateway interposed between the receiver/decoder and the remote device configured to provide indirect access to the network to the receiver/decoder, wherein communication with the gateway is authenticated using the unique identifier associated with the subscription to broadcast services and wherein access to the network provides a subscriber with internet services; and

a subscriber management system configured to link the subscription to broadcast services with a subscription associated with the internet services to manage and provide both broadcast services and internet services to the subscriber,

wherein the network is associated with corresponding network protocols, and data output from the receiver/decoder is converted into data compliant with the network protocols by the gateway interposed between the receiver/decoder and the remote device, and

wherein the network comprises a plurality of remote devices, wherein said converted data is communicated by the gateway to one of the plurality of remote devices as specified in said data, wherein a communication channel is established between the receiver/decoder and the one of the plurality of remote devices.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said identifier is accompanied by data identifying a data pathway to be used for communication between the receiver/decoder and the one of the plurality of remote devices.

20. – 28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein a message instructing termination of the communication channel is communicated from the receiver/decoder to the gateway using the non-internet protocol, the gateway in turn communicating a termination command to the specified remote device using the internet protocol.

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the identification of the receiver/decoder is authenticated by the gateway before the communication channel is established.

31. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the gateway comprises a gateway protocol layer, ~~a PP4 protocol layer~~ and a TCP/IP layer, and wherein low-level

communication between the receiver/decoder and the gateway is performed using a message that complies with the gateway protocol layer of the gateway, wherein the message comprises a message structure, and wherein the message structure comprises:

a protocol version;

a command identifier that identifies a type of the message, wherein the type of the message defines at least one parameter included in the message; and

a data length indicating an overall length of the least one parameter.

32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, wherein the at least one parameter is at least one selected from the group consisting of a parameter that identifies the one of the plurality of remote devices to which the receiver/decoder establishes a connection, a parameter that contains data received from the one of the plurality of remote devices, a parameter that contains data to be sent to the one of the plurality of remote devices, and a parameter that identifies an error condition.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the gateway comprises a gateway protocol layer and a TCP/IP layer, and wherein low-level communication between the receiver/decoder and the gateway is performed using a message that complies with the gateway protocol layer of the gateway, wherein the message comprises a message structure, and wherein the message structure comprises:

a protocol version;

a command identifier that identifies a type of the message, wherein the type of the message defines at least one parameter included in the message; and

a data length indicating an overall length of the least one parameter.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the at least one parameter is at least one selected from the group consisting of a parameter that identifies the one of the plurality of remote devices to which the receiver/decoder establishes a connection, a parameter that contains data received from the one of the plurality of remote devices, a parameter that contains data to be sent to the one of the plurality of remote devices, and a parameter that identifies an error condition.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the one of the plurality of remote devices requires authentication of the receiver/decoder, and wherein the gateway prompts the receiver/decoder for authenticate parameters to authenticate to the one of the plurality of remote devices.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein the authentication parameters include a smartcard number.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein, upon authentication of the receiver/decoder, a subscriber using the receiver/decoder is permitted access to internet services via a connection account, wherein the connection account is an account used for subscriber log-in.

38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37, wherein the subscriber log-in is performed using a[[n]] modified signed digit (MSD) number, wherein the MSD number is partially derived from the smartcard number.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the connection account is linked to at least one directory account, wherein the at least one directory account provides the subscriber with access to internet services.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the directory account comprises:
      an identifier and a password;
      at least one electronic mail aliases; and
      data related to internet services offered to the subscriber.